

STATE OF COLORADO



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Colorado Commission on Higher Education

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Colorado Council of Deans of Education (CCODE)

FROM: Ian K. Macgillivray, Ph.D., Academic Policy Officer/Educator Preparation

DATE: June 20, 2011

SUBJECT: New Requirements of S.B. 11-245

The signing of S.B. 11-245 into law last month made important changes to Colorado Revised Statute §23-1-121, the law that sets requirements for educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education in Colorado. Please be advised of the following changes and implement them, where appropriate, at your institution. The changes below have been divided into two parts. Part I includes those changes that affect educator preparation programs directly and are time sensitive. Part II includes those changes that affect the Department of Higher Education directly and educator preparation programs indirectly.

Part I: Educator Preparation Programs

1. “‘Institution of higher education’ means a public, private, or proprietary postsecondary institution authorized by the [Colorado Commission on Higher Education] to offer educator preparation programs.” [C.R.S. §23-1-121(1)(b)]
 - Explanation: There is no longer any distinction between public, private, or proprietary institutions of higher education when it comes to Colorado Department of Higher Education’s authority to review, and Colorado Commission on Higher Education’s authority to approve new or reauthorize existing educator preparation programs at any institution of higher education in Colorado.
2. An educator preparation program is defined as “a planned sequence of undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate courses and experiences for the purpose of preparing teachers and other school professionals to be effective educators in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade settings. A program may lead to a degree, a recommendation for a state license by the Department of Education, both, or neither.” [C.R.S. §23-1-121(1)(d)]
 - Explanation: Approval of new, and reauthorization of existing, programs is no longer limited to initial teacher licensure programs only. Any program that

- prepares an individual to work in a P-12 setting, whether for initial licensure, add-on endorsement, or advanced study may be reviewed by Colorado Department of Higher Education and approved by Colorado Commission on Higher Education.
3. The requirement for a comprehensive admission system now includes “screening of a candidate’s dispositions for the field in which he or she is seeking licensure, consideration of a candidate’s academic preparation for entry into his or her desired endorsement area or areas, and preadmission advising for students who are considering becoming candidates. The department [of higher education] shall work in collaboration with the programs to define any dispositions considered to be appropriate for educators.” [C.R.S. §23-1-121(2)(a)]
 - Explanation: This codifies part A1.b. of the existing Institutional Report that programs submit for approval and reauthorization and removes the requirement to provide “counseling.”
 4. A requirement for “Ongoing advising and screening of candidates by practicing educators or faculty members.” [C.R.S. §23-1-121(2)(b)]
 - Explanation: Similar to above, this codifies part B1.a. of the existing Institutional Report that programs submit for approval and reauthorization and also removes the requirement to provide “counseling.”
 5. A requirement that “each principal and administrator candidate complete a minimum of three hundred hours, and each other advanced degree or add-on endorsement candidate complete appropriate supervised field-based experience that relates to predetermined learning standards and includes best practices and national norms related to the candidate’s endorsement.” [C.R.S. §23-1-121(2)(d)]
 - Explanation: The requirement of 800 hours for initial teacher licensure remains. This adds the requirement of at least 300 hours of supervised field-based experience for principal (3.03) and administrator (3.04) (superintendent) candidates. Institutions of higher education with principal and administrator preparation programs should implement this requirement for incoming candidates as soon as feasible. If implementation of the requirement will extend past December 31, 2011, please notify ian.macgillivray@dhe.state.co.us. Candidates already enrolled in these programs may be grandfathered in.
 6. A requirement that “each educator preparation program offered by an institution of higher education includes implementation of procedures to monitor and improve the effectiveness of the program, as well as the effectiveness of its graduates” [[C.R.S. §23-1-121(3)], including “Implementation of a procedure for collecting and reviewing evaluative data concerning the educator preparation program, which shall include periodic surveys of graduates and employers and Educator Identifier System data...” [C.R.S. §23-1-121(3)(b)]
 - Explanation: Adds the requirement to collect feedback from graduates, employers, and the Educator ID System to the existing requirement for collecting and reviewing evaluative data for the purpose of modifying the program as necessary. The Reauthorization Committee of CCODE is currently creating a state template that programs may use to collect this data. DHE and CDE will assist programs with Educator ID System data.

Part II: Colorado Department of Higher Education

1. A requirement that “The department [of higher education] shall work cooperatively with each institution of higher education that offers an educator preparation program to obtain any data requested by the department to determine the admission and enrollment patterns, completion rates, and effectiveness of educator preparation programs offered by the institution.” [C.R.S. §23-1-121(4)(c)]
 - Explanation: Changes the previous requirement that each program “shall submit an annual report to the department” to “shall, upon request from the department, prepare and submit an annual report...”
2. A requirement that the Colorado Commission on Higher Education “shall adopt policies and procedures, including a procedure for appeal, to discontinue any educator preparation program at an institution of higher education that has not had any candidate successfully graduate during the previous five years.” [C.R.S. §23-1-121(4)(e)]
 - Explanation: This section was added to ensure quality of endorsement programs.
3. A requirement that “The department [of higher education] shall annually prepare a report concerning the enrollment in, graduation rates from, and effectiveness of the review of educator preparation programs authorized by the [Colorado Commission on Higher Education]. In addition the report shall include data on the outcomes of graduates of educator preparation programs pursuant to section 22-68.5-102, C.R.S... For purposes of completing the report required pursuant to this subsection (6), as well as the report required pursuant to section 22-68.5-102.5 C.R.S., the department of education shall share any relevant data that complies with state and federal regulations with the other agency.” [C.R.S. §23-1-121(6)]
 - Explanation: Shifts the reporting requirement per S.B. 10-036 from CDE to DHE in regards to educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education.
4. The statement that “The General Assembly encourages the department [of higher education] to collaborate with national accrediting bodies of educator preparation and to offer concurrent and joint site visits to educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education to the extent feasible.” [C.R.S. §23-1-121(7)]
 - Explanation: Codifies the existing practice of conducting concurrent and joint state reauthorization and national accreditation visits with TEAC and NCATE.
5. A requirement that “On or before December 30, 2013, the [Colorado Commission on Higher Education] shall review the provisions of this section and any associated commission policies and make recommendations for a new system to review, evaluate, and assist educator preparation programs regarding the requirements of Senate Bill 08-212, enacted in 2008, Senate Bill 10-191, enacted in 2010, House Bill 09-1065, enacted in 2009, and Senate Bill 10-036, enacted in 2010.” [C.R.S. §23-1-121(8)]
 - Explanation: Directs CCHE to make recommendations for a new outcomes-based system for the review, approval, and reauthorization of educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education. DHE is currently initiating this work in collaboration with CDE, CCODE, Reauthorization Subcommittee of CCODE, S.B. 10-036 Advisory Group, and The New Teacher Project.
6. The following sections of the law were repealed:
 - a. 23-1-121.3 Commission directive - principal and administrator preparation programs.

- b. 23-1-121.5 Commission directive – education in special education.
- c. 23-1-121.7 Commission directive – paraprofessional programs.
- Explanation: These sections were repealed because these programs have been subsumed under the new definition of educator preparation program and/or were outdated.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. The Colorado Department of Higher Education looks forward to continuing its collaboration with the Colorado Council of Deans of Education and the Colorado Department of Education in the review, approval, and reauthorization of educator preparation programs with the goals of improving educator effectiveness and P12 student growth and achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ian K. Macgillivray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Ian K. Macgillivray, Ph.D.
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